

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 230508

FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 9433 ACTION SECSTATE 24 SEPT

QUOTE

UNCLAS TEHRAN 9433

EO 11652: NA

OEXC(FARIBORZ ATAPOUR)

SUB: I.V. GRANTEE ATAPOUR

1. FARIBORZ ATAPOUR, ONE OF IRAN'S LEADING NEWSPAPER COLUMNISTS, HAS BEEN INVITED BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO VISIT CANADA FROM ABOUT OCTOBER 1 TO OCTOBER 15. ATAPOUR, WHO HAS NEVER BEEN TO NORTH AMERICA, IS ARRANGING FOR CANADIANS TO ROUTE HIM FROM VANCOUVER TO SAN FRANCISCO AND THEN TO LONDON VIA WASHINGTON, NEW YORK CITY AND BOSTON. ATAPOUR WILL HAVE OPEN TICKETS SAN FRANCISCO-WASHINGTON-NEW YORK-BOSTON-LONDON.

2. POST WISHES NOMINATE ATAPOUR FOR PARTIAL I.V. GRANT AND RECOMMENDS PER DIEM OF AT LEAST \$40.

3. ATAPOUR WAS BORN 1939 IN TEHRAN AND IS IRANIAN CITIZEN. MOST OF EDUCATION IN ENGLAND. SECONDARY EDUCATION AT HARROW
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SCHOOL; BACHELOR'S AND MASTERS DEGREES FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY

WHERE ATAPOUR TOOK A SECOND IN HISTORY. ATAPOUR IS SINGLE. HOME ADDRESS IS 140 SAFI ALLEY SHAN, TEHRAN. EMERGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS IS C/O AMBASSADOR ARDESHIR ZAHEDI, EMBASSY OF IRAN, 018,&59,. ATAPOUR HAS WRITTEN A NUMBER OF PLAYS AND POEMS. HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST. IS A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT AND FOR SEVERAL YEARS ON LONDON STAFF PRICE WATERHOUSE. NO PREVIOUS U.S. GRANTS. ESCORT NOT REQUIRED.

4. ATAPOUR RETURNZEETO TEHRAN FROM ENGLAND APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS AGO AND BEGAN DOING POLITIVEL COLUMNS FOR KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, ONE OF IRAN'S TWO ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS. FOR SOME TIME ALSO DID VERY WELL-RECEIVED SATIRICAL SCOLUMN. APPROXIMATELY YEAR AGO ATAPOUR SHIFTED TO TEHRAN JOURNAL WHERE HE IS PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR TO EDIT PAGE. HIS COLUMNS COVER GAMUT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL. HE HAS INTERVIEWED MANY MIDDLE EAST CHIEFS OF STATE AND IS YNSIDERED ESPECIALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE MIDDLE EAST HISTORY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

5. WHILE HIS COLUMNS HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN FAVORABLE TO U.S. HIS WORK IS GENERALLY BALANCED. ALONG WITH ONE OTHER AMERICAN-ENGLISH EDUCATED JOURNALIST, ATAPOUR IS CONSIDERED IRAN'S BEST JOURNALISTIC WRITER IN ENGL SH AND GENERALLY RATED AS ONE OF THE KEENEST INTEL-LECTS AMONG ALL JOURNALISTS HERE.

6. ATAPOUR'S INTERESTS IN HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES ARE THREE-FOLD: TO MEET AS MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS POSSIBLE, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH LEADING JOURNALISTS AND TO VISIT WITH TOP LEVEL ACADEMICIANS IN THE FIELD OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES. POST IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HAVING ATAPOUR ACHIEVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE BREADTH OF MIDDLE EASTERN AND PERSIAN STUDIES IN AMERICA.

7. SUGGEST THAT HE NOT BE OVERPROGRAMMED IN SAN FRANCISCO AS HE WILL WANT TO SPEND SOME TIME WORKING ON NOTES MADE DURING HIS CANADIAN VISIT. HOWEVER, HE SHOULD MEET LEADING FACULTY MEMBERS DEPARTMENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES AT BERKELEY. RECOMMEND THAT PROFESSOR GEORGE LENCZOWSKI MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS. ATAPOUR WILL ARRIVE SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 15. POST WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT EXACT ETA AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

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8. ATAPOUR WISHES FLY TO WASHINGTON OCTOBER 19 AND SPEND TWO TO THREE DAYS THERE. WISHES SEE SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN INTERESTED MIDDLE EAST AND INDIAN OCEAN AREA SUCH AS CONGRESSMAN LEE HAMILTON. HAS ALSO REQUESTED APPOINTMENT, IF POSSIBLE, UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, ASSISTANCE SECRETARY THERTON. SUGGEST APPOINTMENTS ALSO AT MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE AND WASHINGTON AREA UNIVERSITIES. APPOINTMENTS ALSO SOUGHT WITH LEADING COLUMNISTS. IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND

NEW YORK SUGGEST MEETINGS BE ARRANGED WITH EDITORS OF EDITORIAL PAGES MAJOR NEWSPAPERS. ATAPOUR IS NOTIFYING AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI OF HIS VISIT AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH COORDINATE WASHINGTON PROGRAMMING WITH IRANIAN EMBASSY. IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS, DEPARTMENT SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT ATAPOUR IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, VERY WELL INFORMED AND SOPHISTICATED SCHOLAR-JOURNALIST. ENGLISH IS IMPECCABLE.

9. SUGGEST ATAPOUR TRAVEL TO NEW YORK CITY EVENING ONTOBER 22. POST FEELS NEW YORK VISIT OF TWO TO THREE DAYS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT. ATAPOUR PROBABLY WILL WISH VISIT UNITED NATIONS. PLANS FOR THIS CAN BE COORDINATED WITH IRANIAN MISSION. APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE NEW YORK AREA ACADEMICS, ESPECIALLY AT COLUMBIA'S DEPARTMENT NEAR ESTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURE. SUGGEST PROFESSOR J.C. HUREWITZ AS POSSIBLE CONTACT.

10. TRAVEL TO BOSTON MIGHT BE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 26. BOSTON VISIT MIGHT INCLUDE TOUR HISTORIC SITES AND MEETINGS AT AREA UNIVERSITIES, ESPECIALLY HARVARD. ATAPOUR HAS LIVELY INTEREST CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS CHINA AND WOULD BE INTERESTED MEETING PROFESSOR JEROME COHEN AND OTHER HARVARD SINOLOGISTS. ATAPOUR INTERVIEWED PROFESSOR GALBRAITH A YEARPOO IN TEHRAN AND WOULD LIKE TO RENEW THE ACQUAINTANCE. DEPARTURE FOR LONDON SHOULD BE ABOUT OCTOBER 30.

11. WILL APPRECIATE NOTIFICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON HOTEL, FLIGHT RESERVATIONS AND OTHER PLANS. ATAPOUR PLANNING VISIT BEIRUT, IF POSSIBLE, EN-ROUTE TO CANADA FOR BRIEF COVERAGE SITUATION THERE. THUS MAY DEPART TEHRAN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 28.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE SOONEST WHETHER PARTIAL I.V. GRANT CAN BE ISSUED FARIBORZ ATAPOUR FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 15-30, TO UNCLASSIFIED

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INCLUDE PER DIEM ONLY, AND PROGRAM ARRANGEMENTS, TRAVEL AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS AS OUTLINED ABOVE.
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